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TED WEISS

17th District
New York
Chairman
Subcommittee on

Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations and Human Resources

2442 Rayburn Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202/225-5635

> Patricia S. Fleming Administrative Assistant



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Committees:

Foreign Affairs

Government Operations

Children, Youth and Families

National Commission on Working Women

Executive Board Member, Congressional Arts Caucus

Secretary, New York State Congressional Delegation

Executive Registry

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

November 2, 1984

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The President The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I was shocked to learn from press reports that the Central Intelligence Agency has attempted to influence the U.S. Congress in support of funding for the covert war against Nicaragua.

According to The New York Times of November 1, Edgar Chamorro, a member of the Directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), said the CIA "would tell us which senators and congressman to see and what to say." Your Executive Order 12333 of December 4, 1981 expressly prohibits the Agency from engaging in activity "intended to influence United States political processes, public opinion, policies, or media."

I am also appalled that the CIA advised FDN officials to misinform Members of Congress about the goal of the rebels, which was to overthrow the Government in Managua. This goal, according to Mr. Chamorro, was shared by the CIA. If Edgar Chamorro's report is accurate, then the CIA has violated the Boland Amendment to the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal 1983, which expressly forbids the CIA from providing assistance "for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of Nicaragua."

Reports of CIA involvement in lobbying Congress presents a sordid picture of an intelligence agency conducting its activities without regard for either the law or presidential directives.

I urge you to conduct a thorough investigation into the extent of the Agency's attempts to influence public and Congressional opinion with regard to the covert war. I also ask that you examine which officials in the CIA knew of this activity and whether it was approved by the Director of the CIA.



The President November 2, 1984 Page 2

Adequate oversight of intelligence activities requires an informed Congress. The CIA has attempted to thwart the legislative branch in fulfilling its vital constitutional responsibilities.

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TED WEISS Member of Congress